

## [Slavery (Indian)]

Subject: SLAVERY (INDIAN) S-240 - FOLK WAYS

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S-240 - Folk Ways

6/1/36 cl-190 SLAVERY (INDIAN)

During the early days of Spanish occupation in the Southwest, Indian slavery existed. Las Vegas and Mora had their share. Indian slaves were, in particular, found in the homes of the wealthier ranchers, or [baciendades?] where they were engaged in the more menial indoor and outdoor work. As in the South, the system was often beneficent. Trustworthy and dependable servants often became valued family retainers, marrying, raising their own families, and frequently taking the family name.

## Library of Congress

Hilario Romero of Las Vegas had three Indian slaves, Refugia, Maria, and Felipa, who served the family for almost 60 years. Refugia and Maria were bought in Texas for \$100 each. On a business trip in Mexico Don Hilario loaned \$200 to an Indian friend. Meeting him again in Mexico the following year he requested payment. Unable to meet the demand the Indian arranged to give his daughter in payment. Thus Felipa came into the family. She was to serve longer than the other two. She did only housework, while the others worked outdoors. After many years Maria and Refugia were sent home, where they died several years later. Felipa lived to be a very old woman.

### SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Information supplied by Mary A. Fulgenzi.